

## FANS FOR COQUETS; HANDS FOR "VAMPIRE"

BY THEDA BARA

Written Especially For The Day Book

"Woman's most formidable weapon," the fan, has always had a fascinating attraction for me.

Personally, I seldom use one. Why, I do not know. Surely, a vampire

runs riot when I go over them and call to mind the types of women to whom they originally belonged.

The fan I used in "Carmen" was given me by a nobleman while I was visiting Seville. It was an heirloom and dates back to the early middle ages.

Catherine de Medici is credited with having introduced the fan into France about 1560, where it was quickly adopted not only by women, but by effeminate men.

In Spain the fan plays an important part, although the Spanish woman has her mantilla, the most flirtatious adjunct known to coquetry. A skillful manipulator of this other weapon, she carries it with her always—even to bullfights.

The fan has been put to a variety of uses. The Sibyls are said to have been in the habit of fanning themselves while delivering their oracles—certainly an indication that the fan was not regarded in those days as in any way connected with frivolity.

A French author has said there are 100 ways of using a fan, but he names only one. This consists, he says, in holding this weapon and shield of coquetry that its bearer may receive a love letter, unobserved.

The American woman, to my mind, is the most successful user of the fan. She can make it express any phase of a mood and every degree of that phase.

The debutante has a dainty affair of ivory sticks and point lace; the young matron a scintillating one of guaze and spangles; the adventuress, a shrieking fantasy of stiffly cut quills and exotic plumage in vivid scarlets or emerald green and the substantial dowager black ostrich.

Some day I may bring my wonderful collection of fans to practical use—but I do not think they suit my type. I must have my hands free to express things



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should make use of every possible weapon within her reach. Somehow, they seem to me forced, artificial, and I believe they hamper, rather than aid my progress.

I have made a collection of fans to gratify my imagination, which